(vi)	Play grounds constructed	198 Nos.
(vii)	Construction of roads/tracks	502 Kms.
(viii)	Patients treated	1.75 lakhs approximately
(ix)	Live stock treated	16374 Nos.

In addition, the army also undertook some similar small projects, during the year 1999-2000 which are continuing in the current year also.

The Army undertook limited welfare/developmental projects in the Majuli Islands during the period 1999-2000 which mcluded construction and repair of roads/tracks/playground and also organised a free medical camp on 10th and 11th February, 2000.

Recruitment of Tribals from North-Eastern States

1887. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quota of tribals in the vaccancies in Armed Forces for the North-Eastern States;

(b) the number of tribals recruited during the last three years from each one of eight North-Eastern States including Sikkim; and

(c) what concrete steps Government are taking to step up the recruitment of tribals from North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No fixed vacancies are allotted for tribals for the North-Eastern States.

(b) The information is being collected.

(c) The following steps are being taken to step up recruitment of tribals from the North-Eastern States:—

(i) Regular recruitment rallies are being conducted in the North Eastern States.

(ii) Wide publicity is being given to the recruitment rallies.

(iii) Emphasis is given on organising recruitment rallies in the rural and backward areas with the help of civil administration.

(iv) Following dispensation in educational qualification have been provided for enrolment as Soldier (GD) in the Army:—

(a) From class X to class V to tribals of seven North-Eastern States.

(b) From class X to class VIII for all persons hailing from Sikkim.

Proposal to Start Defence Engineering Academy

† 1888. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been/is being finalised to start Defence Engineering Academy for increasing manpower in Defence Services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is acute shortage of manpower in Army; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to encourage the meritorious youth to join Army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. There is a shortage of officers to the extent of 28.1%.

(d) An Image Projection Campaign of the Army was launched during 1997-98 with assistance of a professional advertising agency. The campaign has made a positive impact in that the number of

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.